

Storm Captures First Tournament Title

Written by Staff Reports
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The Watauga Storm eighth-grade girls travel basketball team won their first tournament of the season this past Saturday at the Alleghany Mother's Day

Bash.

The Storm went 3-0 on Saturday and won their games by an average of 15 points. The Storm set the tone right away by blasting the Alleghany Pride, 26-5. Gracie Proffit led the way.

She was a force inside and controlled the offensive boards. She poured in seven first-half points staking The Storm to a 17-4 halftime lead.

Proffit, who apparently suffered a broken finger early in the game, led The Storm with nine points. Makenzie Thompson finished with seven points; Madie Darner had six points, and rounding out the scoring was Makenzie Robinson and Maddisen Robinson who each scored two points apiece.

The Storm advanced to the championship game by knocking off the Lake Norman Raptors, 33-21. The Storm also avenged a five-point loss against the Raptors earlier this year.

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The backcourt of Darner, Robinson, and Thompson combined for 30 of the team's 33 points. Darner led the Storm with 13 points to go along with 12 rebounds. Thompson finished with nine points and eight steals; Robinson chipped in with eight points, four steals, and two assists. Proffitt rounded out the scoring with three points.

And the Storm followed that up by knocking off the Raptors 33-19 in the championship game.

Ironically, the Raptors grabbed an early 10-4 lead due to some heavy foul trouble for the Storm. However, the Storm began to assert their dominance on the boards led by Sophie Reese, Proffitt and Darner and began pushing the tempo.

A 10-0 run over the last four minutes of the first half gave the Storm a 14-10 halftime lead. The Storm's defensive intensity on the perimeter of their zone led by Thompson, Maddisen Robinson and Makenzie Robinson would push the lead to double digits for much of the second half.

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After a three pointer by the Raptors cut the lead to nine points late in the game, Vanessa Saufley answered by hitting two quick three pointers to push the lead back up to 15 points. The Storm cruised from there and went on to win their first tournament title.

Thompson led the Storm with ten points and also had nine steals. Darner, despite early foul trouble, finished with nine points and 15 rebounds; Saufley chipped in with eight points. Reese added 4 points and Maddisen Robinson finished with 2 points.

Taylor Walker was in attendance, but was not able to play due to a broken foot. The Storm is currently 7-10 on the season and will finish up their travel season with one more tournament in two weeks.

Team members are: Madie Darner, Makenzie Thompson, and Makenzie Robinson; standing from left to right – Sophie Reese, Coach Tige Darner, Maddisen Robinson, Gracie Proffit, Vanessa Saufley, and Taylor Walker. Not Pictured: Coach Joe Robinson and Kaylee Cottom